

DESCRIPTION: The Sand Wash Basin is a large 160,000 acre high desert scenic expanse of public lands between Vermillion Bluffs and Seven Mile Ridge. The topography varies from gently rolling hills to steep ridges and low bluffs with dry stream beds, gullies, and washes.

The area makes up the Sand Wash Wild Horse Management Area. The wild horse herd ranges in size from 163 to 362 animals. The horses are quite colorful and include unique paints, grays, red and blue roans, bays, sorrels, and other color variations. The herd is very popular with wildlife photographers and wild horse enthusiasts throughout the spring, summer, and fall.



In addition to wild horse viewing, the area abounds with solitude and recreational opportunities. Activities include horseback riding, camping, rock hounding, and large and small game hunting.

The area is also rich in history, reaching back to prehistoric times. During the 1950s, there was much oil exploration

done within the basin. Long tracts of liner trails were cut into the area by tractors. These tracts are known as “seismic trails” and combined with the numerous dirt roads there is now an extensive network of trails, which has made the area quite popular with OHV enthusiasts.



ACCESS: The Sand Wash Basin is located 17 miles northwest of Maybell, Colorado and is easily accessible from Colorado State Highway 318. Roads can become impassable during wet weather and are not maintained during the winter. Four-wheel drive is recommended but two-wheel drive vehicles can be used on most of the county roads through the Sand Wash Basin.

MAPS: BLM Canyon of Lodore Color Quads (scale = 1:100,000). USGS Topographic Maps (scale = 1:24,000) – G Spring, Sheepherder Springs, Sheephead Basin and Clay Buttes. Topographic maps are available from USGS Branch of Distribution (map sales) P.O. Box 25386, Building 41, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225, phone (303) 236-7477.

Sand Wash Basin

160,000 acres



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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